

## **Indiana Department of Environmental Management**

### **How can I make sure my drinking water is safe?**

- Local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) are coordinating with other federal, state and local agencies to provide requested assistance to impacted areas. Contact your local Emergency Management Agency with questions or for information. A map of EMAs and contact information is available on the Web <http://www.in.gov/dhs/4331.htm>.

### **What if I have an oil spill or chemical release?**

- Report spills and releases to IDEM's 24-hour toll free spill line at 1-888-233-7745. IDEM staff is working to ensure all reported spills are contained and stabilized.

### **I'm a livestock producer; what do I do if my lagoon is overflowing or my barns are flooding?**

- To report spills and releases, contact the IDEM Spill Line, toll free, at 1-888-233-7745. IDEM staff will work to ensure all reported spills are contained and stabilized. Livestock operations should also contact Ryan Westerfeld at IDEM for technical assistance at 317-232-8587 or 1-800-451-6027.

### **What does my wastewater treatment plant do in an emergency?**

- Flood waters, in general, are considered to be contaminated with sewage, animal waste and possible pathogens. Flood waters and power outages may have disrupted operations at many wastewater treatment plants in impacted areas. As flood waters recede and power returns, these plants will resume operations. The public may contact their wastewater facilities for the status of operations. (IDEM will be helping plants that need special assistance. Wastewater operators may contact IDEM at (317) 234-2579 or email Don Daily at [ddaily@idem.IN.gov](mailto:ddaily@idem.IN.gov).)

### **Where do I take debris and waste when I cleanup from the flood?**

- Each county and city will work to provide special waste collections or drop-off locations. Check with your local Emergency Management Agency for information about disposal of waste from severe weather.

### **What is household hazardous waste and what should I do with it?**

- Household hazardous waste should be separated from other waste. Household hazardous waste includes: paints, paint thinners, turpentine, furniture strippers, wood preservatives, stains and finishes; pesticides, insecticides, flea collars and sprays, roach and ant killers, rat and mouse poisons and herbicides; household cleaners such as oven, toilet, drain, rug and upholstery cleaners, bleaches, disinfectants, mothballs, ammonia-based and

powdered cleansers, floor and furniture polish; automotive products such as antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids and motor oil; lawn and garden care products and pool chemicals; paint products and beauty products such as nail polish and remover; and, batteries and mercury thermometers.

### **What should I do with medications?**

- Medications that must be discarded also require special attention. Tablets or capsules should be dissolved in the original container with a small amount of water. For liquid medications, add sawdust, kitty litter or flour, if available, to the original container. Labels from prescription bottles should be removed or patient information should be completely marked out. Lids should be placed tightly on the containers and put in a heavy-duty sealed bag as tight lids and sealed bags will keep medications from leaking. The sealed bag may be placed in the trash so that it is not visible to prevent unintended use or contact.